

12th District Alderman

James N. Witkowiak



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Dear Friends,

I'm happy to announce some of the events in our district that are leading the way for growth and development in our area.

In this newsletter, you'll read about the Department of City Development's Targeted Investment Neighborhood program and how innovative loans and offers are available to help you make emergency repairs on your home or reinvest in your property. You'll see how these initiatives are helping to rebuild our area.

You'll also learn how you and neighborhood groups can not only prevent crime, but can work together to keep the neighborhood safe by reporting problem clubs or taverns.

Finally, we will proudly celebrate one of the first and largest Housing Trust Fund projects, the Johnston Center apartment complex. You may remember it as the old hospital, but today it's been renovated and is proudly serving our residents again!

Tips for winter parking, snow shoveling and other public works needs are also in this newsletter.

I wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to sharing 2011 with you!

Sincerely,

James N. Witkowiak
Alderman, 12th District

Neighborhood News

The Common Council recently voted against renewing the license to operate for one local establishment, Club Sugar. The club, which does not serve alcohol and caters to young people between 17 and 20 years of age, had operated with relatively few problems. Earlier this spring, however, the club began having regular and fairly serious disruptive incidents at closing time. Cruising, loud car stereos and disturbances have been the rule – not the exception – each and every week. Milwaukee police officers must regularly respond to Club Sugar at closing time to ensure that patrons disperse and to maintain order.

I had received numerous complaints from neighbors who have had to endure the loud disturbances and general mayhem that has been a regular occurrence outside Club Sugar at closing time. Local business helps our area and our economy thrive, but we must have a relationship between business and residents that allows for the peaceable enjoyment of your home and neighborhood.

If you have a problem club or tavern near you or a business that isn't performing to the rules of its license, there are a few steps you are encouraged to take:

- 1) Make a note of the disturbance, including the date, time and location.
- 2) Keep a record of the disturbances and each time you report them.
- 3) When you phone in a disturbance to the local police non-emergency number (933-4444), please report YOUR address – the location you are phoning from – as well as the address of the disturbance.
- 4) If there is an emergency, please use 911, but for other disturbances, use the non-emergency number or the Police District 2 community liaison number, 935-7228.
- 5) **Also, importantly** please contact my office about your concerns so that we have a record.



Committee Assignments

CHAIR Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development

MEMBER Community & Economic Development Committee,
Public Safety Committee, Steering & Rules Committee

View meetings on the web at: www.milwaukee.gov/channel25

Development News

BELOW: Ald. Witkowiak speaks at the ground-breaking of the new Mercy Housing Lakefront development and explores the renovations at the new housing facility in the 12th District.



Housing Trust Fund Working in the 12th District

In partnership with Mercy Housing Lakefront, the Housing Trust Fund proudly announced the creation of a supportive housing facility at 2150 S. 13th St. in the 12th District. The new Johnston Center Apartments, the first of their kind, will provide 91 permanent supportive housing units to formerly homeless residents.

Mercy Housing Lakefront rehabilitated and added new construction to the Johnston Center building at S. 13th St. and W. Windlake Ave., which has been unoccupied for the last three years and once served as one of the city's most well-known hospitals and health care centers.

The new \$13 million property is possible through support from city, county, state and federal sources and has been named a "catalytic project" for the Near South Side neighborhood by the City of Milwaukee Department of City Development.

Area leaders believe the Johnston Center rehabilitation will attract more businesses and services to the prominent six-corner area. It will also meet the city's critical need for permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals.

Cesar Chavez Drive Area TIN

The City of Milwaukee's Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation (NIDC) offers grants to Targeted Investment Neighborhoods. Among them are low interest loans for emergency home repair for owner-occupied homes and \$20,000 and \$30,000 grants for those that purchase foreclosed homes in our targeted areas.

I encourage district residents, especially Spanish speaking, to feel free to contact the NIDC office at www.mkedcd.org/housing/nidc.html or contact www.milwaukeehousinghelp.org, our foreclosure program.

Winter Parking

• NO PARKING DECEMBER 1 TO MARCH 1

No overnight parking is allowed on through highways and mass transit (bus) routes from December 1 to March 1. These streets are not posted. For a list of these streets please go to the Winter Parking Regulations section at www.milwaukee.gov/parkingregulations. In case of a "Snow Emergency" prior to December 1 or after March 1, vehicles must be moved to a side street and must be legally parked in conformity with all other regulations on the proper side of the street.

• EXCEPTION TO ALTERNATE SIDE NIGHT PARKING

Overnight parking is allowed on both sides of the street from March 1 to December 1. Alternate side night parking is allowed from December 1 to March 1. These streets are not posted. For a list of these streets please go to the Winter Parking Regulations section at www.milwaukee.gov/parkingregulations.

• 4" RULE

Certain residential streets are posted "No Parking When Snow Falls 4 Inches or More." Parking is allowed on both sides of the street, except when snow has accumulated on the street surface to the depth of 4 inches or more. Then no parking is allowed on the side of the street where the sign is posted until the snow has been removed – day or night or at any time of the year. To determine whether this regulation applies to a specific street go to Street Parking Regulations at www.milwaukee.gov/parkingbyaddress.

Branding Milwaukee



This year, the Common Council passed legislation that created a task force to investigate the best way to assess the perceptions of Milwaukee, create and sustain a new identity and create vehicles to fund the

marketing of our city. The task force includes members of various neighborhood improvement districts, business organizations, VISIT Milwaukee and other tourism groups. As a community ready to take on new jobs, development and industry, creating a brand identity to help others recognize the quality Milwaukee offers can greatly benefit our community.



Reed Street Yards Tax Incremental District

A tax incremental district is one in which the city uses loan incentives to help an area develop, then reaps the tax benefit of more businesses, jobs and infrastructure to pay off the loan. One of the main purposes of creating a development district here is to provide the necessary access and infrastructure so that the Reed Street Yards and remaining tannery buildings in this area can be developed.

Part of the project will include extending the Milwaukee Riverwalk into the Walker's Point neighborhood, providing a connection to

the Hank Aaron State Trail and creating better public access to the water.

Once this area has better access and connection to the water, we have increased ability to recruit water-related companies to this region. Currently, the Milwaukee area is home to more than 120 companies in the water technology sector and our new University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Great Lakes WATER Institute and future School of Freshwater Sciences will further the water research already being conducted in the area. The private/public partnership a tax incremen-

tal district provides can help to build infrastructure like water mains, streets and pedestrian amenities to the Reed Street Yards. Further, this project helps to remediate some brownfield areas and improves the tax base of the city overall as new businesses and developments in the area become taxable entities.

Overall, the TID project broadens the Walker's Point area, creates jobs and removes some of the blight encroaching on our district. Updates on the project will be available on my website, www.milwaukee.gov/district12.

Take Ownership Of Your Neighborhood

There are many challenges facing the city, and it's important that everyone who lives in the community takes ownership of their neighborhoods. Ald. Witkowiak wants to remind you that one very important way you can do that is by forming or joining a Block Watch neighborhood organization. Block Watch is a free, community-based, crime prevention program administered by the Community Services Division of the Milwaukee Police Department.

The goal is to help residents organize their neighborhoods to prevent crime in the community. Nobody knows a neighborhood better than the people who live in that neighborhood. Participants watch out for their neighbor's

property and report suspicious activities to the police. Block Watch is a great way to get to know your neighbors, and by collaborating with police make our neighborhoods safer.

Each police district employs a community liaison officer and a series of crime analysis meetings for the area. Ald. Witkowiak highly encourages you to get involved in these meetings and be a positive force for change in your neighborhoods.

We are served by Police District 2 Captain Don Gaglione and Community Liaison Officer P.O. Jesus Gloria. **Call 935-7228 to get involved.**

Veterans: Access To Information & Benefits

If you're a veteran of the U.S. armed forces and need assistance with benefits and information, please call:

Federal VA Benefits Line
1-800-827-1000

Clement Zablocki VA Medical Center
(414) 384-2000

WI State Dept. of Veterans Affairs
(608) 266-1311 or 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387)

Milwaukee County Veterans Service Office
(414) 382-1727

Not Too Late To Make Plans For Winter



Winter has officially arrived in Milwaukee and that means we can expect some snow emergencies. So Ald. Witkowiak wants to remind all residents of some of the requirements during snow and ice control operations.

Remember that public safety is the first priority during snow and ice control on the city's 1,400 miles of city streets. Streets are prioritized based on traffic volume, public transportation routes, access to emergency services and schools.

Response Depends On The Storm

The Department of Public Works will use only one or two salt trucks to tackle intermittent salting of isolated slippery spots, but a full scale plowing for a big storm will use over 360 pieces of equipment, supplemented by private contractors. The most common operation is a general ice control in which 90 salt trucks are sent out citywide.

During a major storm, a general plowing is called and it may take 12 to 18 hours to complete the initial plowing followed by several more days cleaning up after parked cars, touching up intersections and widening streets. "I know we can be patient and cooperate with Public Works during bad weather," said Ald. Witkowiak, "and while the city tries to do this promptly, it's best to wait, if possible, until the plows finish before shoveling out your driveway approach."

Move Car To Help Snow Removal

The single biggest problem during major snowstorms is parked and abandoned cars. The plows try to get as close to the curb as they can but those "snowbirds" get in the way and prevent them from completing the job. Ald. Witkowiak asks that you move your vehicles so plows can clear the streets curb to curb. Remember it is illegal to park in one place for more than 24 hours.

The Milwaukee Public Schools make a number of school playgrounds available for overnight parking during snow emergencies. Call the DPW Information Center at 286-2489 (CITY) for the location of playground parking nearest your home.

Holiday Tree Disposal

Garbage collection crews will pick up the tree if it is placed where the garbage is collected. If your collection is in an alley, trees must be placed at the alley line for collection, not on the street. Only residents whose garbage is collected from the street may place their tree at the curb to be picked up.

Trees may also be taken to the Self-Help Centers located at 3879 W. Lincoln Ave. or 6660 N. Industrial Rd. where they will be composted or turned into mulch. Winter hours through April 2, 2011 are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The centers are closed on Sundays, Wednesdays and city holidays. For more information visit www.milwaukee.gov/selfhelpcenters. In addition to the city's Self-Help Centers, private locations in the Milwaukee area may also accept unwanted items.

"Hardship" Assistance Can Help

Is shoveling your sidewalk after a big Milwaukee snowstorm a "mission impossible" because of age or disability? Ald. Witkowiak wants you to know that city sanitation workers may be able to give you a helping hand. If you are a senior citizen or disabled and living in a single-family, owner-occupied home, and physically unable to do the shoveling, you may be eligible for "hardship" assistance.

Eligibility requirements:

- Resident must own the home
- Others in home must also be unable to shovel
- Only the public sidewalk is cleared, no driveways
- Shoveling done only when city plows streets
- \$10 flat fee put on tax bill each time DPW clears your walks
- Call Sanitation Division at 286-3345 for application

Winter Garbage Cart Collection

Because sanitation crews who collect garbage and recyclables also plow snow, collection days may change during the winter, especially after a heavy snowstorm or especially frigid temperatures.

There is no garbage/recycling collections on these holidays:

- **New Year's** Friday, Dec. 31, 2010 and Monday, Jan. 3, 2011
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** Monday, Jan. 17, 2011
- **Good Friday** Friday, April 22 and Monday, April 2, 2011
- **Memorial Day** Friday, May 27 and Monday, May 30, 2011

Snow Plowing and Shoveling

When a major storm occurs, a general plowing is initiated. It can take from 18 to 24 hours to plow all streets, depending on the severity of the storm.

Residents have 24 hours after the snow stops falling to clear snow from sidewalks. Violations reported to DPW will be inspected and incur an initial inspection fee of \$25. If the snow is not cleared after 24 hours, the city will clear it and put the costs along with a \$45 - \$90 administrative fee on the property tax bill.

Elderly or handicapped residents may apply to DPW for hardship sidewalk snow removal. Snow is removed by mechanical equipment only after a plowing operation (normally 4 inches or more). The costs are dropped to the property tax bill.

One of the greatest obstacles to plowing snow is cars parked on the street. On street parking restricts plows from pushing the snow to the curb. Crews regularly return to plow "snow islands" left by parked cars that move after streets have been plowed. If you see an area where a car has moved after the street was plowed, please contact the DPW Call Center at 286-CITY.

Exciting New 12th District Developments



La Causa's New Athletic Field

Chartered by MPS in 2003, La Causa Charter School is a K5-8th grade bilingual school serving 600-plus children in one of the most economically challenged areas of Milwaukee. This year class sizes were reduced to 15 pupils per classroom in the early grades thanks to a SAGE grant, while a \$2.5 million school expansion created a science and robotics lab, as well as space for music and arts programs.

La Causa, Inc. is one of the most prominent bilingual, multicultural agencies in Milwaukee, serving more than 11,000 individuals every year. Core services include the Charter School, an Early Education and Childcare Center, a Family Resource Center, a Crisis Nursery and Respite Center, foster care recruitment, mental health services, parenting classes, support groups and a slew of other innovative programs for people in need.

ABOVE LEFT - Hundreds of volunteers, supporters and students assembled at La Causa Charter School to watch UPS officials give La Causa a \$25,000 check. The money will be used to build a planned grassy athletic field that will serve the 600-plus students at La Causa Charter School, located on the corner of 2nd and Mitchell streets.

ABOVE RIGHT - Alderman Witkowiak celebrates with President & CEO of La Causa, George Torres.

Food Safety Inspections Available Online

A City of Milwaukee website is offering Milwaukee's first system that lets visitors review inspection records of city restaurants, food stores and other outlets that serve food. The Food Establishment Inspection Reporting System, available at www.milwaukee.gov/fi, provides timely information on the current city codes compliance of any restaurant, tavern or food store in the 12th District or anywhere in the city.

The search capabilities of the Food Establishment Inspection Reporting System are very flexible. For example, one may search by:

- City of Milwaukee aldermanic district
- ZIP code
- Establishment name
- Establishment street address

Inspection reports currently go back to January 2007 with special inspections starting June 2007. New records are added daily. "Citizens can be actively engaged in the inspection process by utilizing this system," Ald Witkowiak said.

2011 Changes in Garbage Pickup

Beginning January 1, 2011, city crews will only pick up one cubic yard of extra material placed out for pickup on your designated collection day. This is about the size of an easy chair. Call 286-CITY (2489) to request pick up of larger piles for a fee.

Other curbside changes include a fee for extra garbage carts. Households with more than one garbage cart will incur a \$5 per quarter charge for each additional garbage cart. To avoid this charge, call 286-CITY (2489) to request that the city remove the extra garbage carts from your property. There is no extra charge if you have more than one recycling cart at your property.

Free Landlord Training

Landlords can learn to screen new tenants and how to deal with nuisance properties by enrolling in the City of Milwaukee's FREE Landlord Training Program. You'll receive five hours of training and a 100-page manual.

2011 Schedule:

• Wednesday, January 12, 2011

8:30 a.m. Sign-In, Class from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Anderson Building, 4001 S. 6th St. - 3rd Floor

• Tuesday and Wednesday, January 25 & 26, 2011

6:00 P.M. Sign-In, Class from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Milwaukee Safety Academy, 6680 N. Teutonia Ave.

• Saturday, February 5, 2011

8:30 a.m. Sign-In, Class from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
The Anderson Building, 4001 S. 6th St. - 3rd Floor

• Tuesday and Wednesday, March 8th & 9th, 2011

6:00 p.m. Sign-In, Class from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Milwaukee Safety Academy, 6680 N. Teutonia Ave.

• Wednesday, March 23rd, 2011

8:30 a.m. Sign-In, Class from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
The Anderson Building, 4001 S. 6th St. - 3rd Floor

ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

For information or to register call 286-2954
or e-mail jhagne@milwaukee.gov.

Learn more at: www.milwaukee.gov/landlordtraining

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2011 City Budget

The city budget for fiscal year 2011 includes **no major service cuts and no increase in the property tax levy**. Nevertheless, the overall trend over the past decade has been declines in shared revenue from the state which has led to reductions in city services.

The term "shared revenue" is perhaps misleading. It refers to the income and sales taxes that all of us pay, but that go to Madison before being distributed to local governments. So we give it to Madison before they then "share" it back with us and other cities, towns and villages.

Since 2000 the city's share of this tax money has been reduced by over \$59 million in inflation adjusted dollars. That translates to **about 10% of our annual general city operating budget**. It is no coincidence that in those same years the workforce which provides city services has also been reduced by more than 11%. That means we have fewer firefighters, fewer police officers, fewer sanitation workers, fewer public health nurses and fewer librarians.

This ongoing fiscal deficit has been exacerbated by the stock market crash in 2008, and our pension system was left underfunded for the first time in

more than two decades. For the 2010 city budget, we were forced to make a \$47 million payment to cover the gap, on top of our **ongoing structural deficit** caused primarily by the **loss of shared revenue**. Our best current projections indicate that, even without a future stock crash, the **growing cost** of pension obligations will force similarly sized payments throughout the next decade.

The city is not simply reacting to these grim external realities of funding cuts and cost increases. Internally, we are implementing **austerity measures and long-term plans to create a fiscal future** with stable taxes, fees, and services. These careful choices, many of which were initiated in the 2010 budget, helped make the 2011 budget more stable.

These cuts and adjustments included:

1. Management pay freezes - including all elected officials - in fiscal years 2009-11.
2. Four furlough days for all non-emergency personnel in 2010 and 2011.
3. A new smoothing formula for pension payments - which saved us over \$40 million in 2010.

In addition, 2010 was also the beginning of several long-term plans for important city services and that plan continued to be realized in the 2011 budget:

- In response to the **recent flooding and sewage overflows**, we are preparing a pilot program which will allow public funding of private lateral connections to underground pipes, which could save us money in the long run, **prevent basement back ups**, and help clean our lake.
- We have a **5-year sanitation plan** which will gradually transition all of us onto a "Pay as You Throw" garbage fee, with unlimited recycling and compost pickup. This will save us money and reduce our landfill waste.
- In order to **prevent libraries from closing**, we are looking at creating a new generation of mixed-use libraries, which will have more hours of service and better technology access.
- The City already has **53 miles of bike lanes**, and with our new plan we could have **nearly 150 more miles by 2020**. By folding these decisions into our overall street budget, we are saving money while reducing traffic and improving public health.